

The Animal's Christmas

A Children's Christmas Pageant

by Rev. Daniel J. Moore

I have never written a Christmas pageant before. This is my first one. It's not Shakespeare, but I hope that you will think it's fun. The sets are simple (there aren't any), the songs I suggest are familiar, and the lines can be split up among other characters if you need to. All you need is to dress the kids up in barn yard animal costumes which most churches probably already have. Feel free to change stuff around and add or remove lines. I have tried to leave this as flexible as possible. Peace and Joy! And Merry Christmas. - Dan Moore

Suggested Cast:

Chicken - a jumpy, excitable creature
Cow - the motherly animal in charge
Dog - dopey, but lovable
Donkey - new in town, but tired
Goat - a grumpy sort
Sheep - try's to be helpful, but isn't always
Angel - appears to help the animals understand
what is happening at their stable
Assorted other barnyard animals - to fill out
the scene

Suggested Songs: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"The Friendly Beast Song"
"Silent Night"

From the back, all of the animals, except for Donkey, enter while the congregation is singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

Cow: Come on everybody, staying together.

Goat: I don't want to be outside. It's cold out here.

Sheep: It feels fine to me! I've got on my wool coat.

Cow: Sheep! Stop teasing Goat. We can get out of the wind up ahead.

Goat: What's going on? Why can't we stay in our stable?

Chicken: Fire! Fire! Fire! It's a fire!

Cow: No, it wasn't a fire Chicken. All I know is Farmer came out and told us to get out of the barn.

Goat: Why us? Why did we have to go out into the cold?

Chicken: Because of the fire, fire, fire!

Cow: Chicken! There was no fire!

By now, all the animals should be in the front of the church where everyone can see them.

Sheep: OK everybody. Here's a place out of the wind. We should be just fine here.

Goat: OK, Cow. Let's hear it all again. From the beginning.

Cow: I was eating my hay in back of the Inn, when Farmer came out. He said that there were two Humans who needed a place to spend the night. One of the Humans was very pregnant. It looked to me like she could have her calf anytime now.

Dog: Baby human's aren't called calves. They're called puppies.

Sheep: No, no. I knew a Human with a baby once. And they always called the baby "my little lamb".

Cow: Well, whatever they call them. I saw the Lady

Human, and she did not look good. She seemed to be in a lot of pain, as if she was going to have her calf ... I mean baby - at any moment.

Goat: But why our stable? Shouldn't she be inside a house someplace and out of this cold and nasty weather? It looks like it could snow at any moment. How are the humans going to keep warm?

Chicken: They can build a fire, fire, fire!

Goat: Chicken!

Chicken: Sorry everybody.

Dog: You know, I was out for a walk this afternoon and talking to my buddies. They said that the town is getting pretty crowded. Maybe there wasn't any room inside for the Humans. You know Farmer would never turn anyone away if they were in need. He'd find someplace for them to stay even if all his rooms were all full.

Goat: Even if that meant kicking us out. Oh, why our stable? I want to go home!

Cow: Dog is right. Farmer is a good man. Maybe our stable is the only place for them to stay in the whole town.

Donkey comes out and walks down the aisle.

Dog: Wait. Who's that over there? I don't know them.

Goat: Hey you! The one with the big ears.
(Special line: Goat can look at someone in a pew and say: "I'm sorry, sir. I didn't mean you.")
Who are you? And where did you come from?

Donkey: I'm Donkey. I'm from Nazareth.

Sheep: Nazareth? That's a long way from here. What are you doing here in Bethlehem?

Donkey: My Human's had to come. And I had to walk all the way here with one of the Human's on my back. And was she heavy!

Sheep: That's not a nice thing to say!

Donkey: Well, she wasn't on YOUR back all day.

Cow: Wait a minute. Did you just come from our Inn?

Donkey: I came from somebody's Inn. I just dropped off my humans at a stable.

Goat: That's our stable! They kicked us out to make room for your humans!

Donkey: I'm sorry about that, but my Humans really needed a place to stay. They've traveled a long way and are very tired, and I think that the Human who rode me is going to have a baby tonight.

Goat: A baby? Tonight? In our stable?

Cow: This is terrible! Why would a human travel all that way just to give birth in a stable?

An angel appears on the scene, but only Chicken notices this at first.

Chicken: Fire! Fire! Fire!

Goat: Chicken! There is no fire!

Chicken: Fire! Fire! Fire!

Cow: Chicken! Nothing is on fire!

Angel: I think she's talking about me.

Cow: Oh my goodness! I'm so sorry Chicken. This human does look bright.

Angel: But I'm not a human.

Sheep: You look like one. Sort of.

Angel: I am an angel of God. And I've come to talk to you.

Cow: Talk to us? But we're just animals. No one ever talks to us.

Dog: They do to me. I was three years old before I figured out my name wasn't "No, no, bad dog!"

Angel: You are all special animals. You have been a blessing to God, and you do not even know it.

Lamb: A blessing to God? How?

Angel: By giving up your stable on this cold night so that God can come to earth in human form. Some friends of mine are at this very moment spreading the word. They are telling some shepherd's: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Cow: Our manger?

Angel: That's right. Your manger. God looked down and

picked your stable for the birth of His very own Son.

Goat: And all we've been doing is complaining about it.

Sheep: How were we to know? Is God angry with us?

Angel: No. That's why I'm here. I'm to tell you the good news so that you'll know that what is happening in your stable this night is a special and holy thing. One day, the story of this night will spread all around the world, and people will celebrate this night and sing songs about the Christ-child.

Cow: I'm afraid our part won't be worth singing about. We really have done nothing but complain.

Donkey: And me more than the rest of you.

Angel: God understands. You didn't know. You had no way of knowing how special this night is, and how big a part you have already played. But the night is a long way from over. And each of you can help the tiny baby.

Sheep: How can we do that?

Angel: Each of you has special gifts that God has given you. You can use those gifts to help the baby. Think about it a little. I'm sure you'll figure it out. But now I have to go. Be sure and remember what I've told you. Bye!

The Angel exits. All of the animals stand around thinking. Then they sing "The Friendly Beast Song".

Lamb: I think the Angel is right. All of us have gifts that we can bring to the Baby. I think we should all head back and do our part. Maybe someday

someone will write a song about us.

Cow: I don't know if they'll ever sing a song about us,
but I know they'll sing wonderful songs about this
baby. Let's go back to our stable and see Him.

*As the animals leave, everyone in the church sings
"Silent Night". At the end of the song, Chicken comes
running out, stands in the front of the church and says:*

Chicken: God bless us - every one! Merry Christmas!

Chicken exits.

The end.

*Feel free to use this play and change it around to fit your circumstances, but
please put the following notice in your programs or bulletins: "The Animal's
Christmas" by Daniel J. Moore. © 2008. Modified and used with permission."*

*If you use this play and you enjoy it, please consider making a donation to your
local food bank as a thanksgiving offering.*

*I'd love to hear from you! You can send me an e-mail at RevDan@minister.com.
Peace and Joy! And have a very merry and blessed Christmas.*

The Rev. Daniel J. Moore is a 1997 graduate of the *Lancaster Theological
Seminary* and is an ordained minister of the *United Church of Christ*. He and
his wife Denise are Oblates in the *Companions of St Luke - Benedictine*
religious order. They currently live in southwest Iowa.

